



**We Congratulate  
the Recipients of the Following Awards**

Political Science Department Jacob Van Ek Award  
**Vanera Aslanan, Kaoutar Elouadi, & Karthik Reddy**

Political Science Graduate Mentorship Award  
**Vannessa Baird and Michelangelo Landgrave**

Political Science Undergraduate Mentorship Award  
**Christopher Jorde and Joshua Strayhorn**

Political Science Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award  
**Alexandra Siegel**

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of  
their dreams.” Eleanor Roosevelt



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University of Colorado Boulder

Department of Political Science

College of Arts and Sciences



Graduation Recognition Ceremony

Macky Auditorium

Friday, May 9th, 2025

## Congratulations to Our 2025 Honors Recipients

Dear Graduates,

The faculty and staff of the Department of Political Science at CU Boulder congratulate you on completing your degree. This is a tremendous accomplishment. We have enjoyed being a part of your journey at CU, and today we welcome your friends and family as we celebrate your accomplishments. The discipline of political science is designed for students who have curiosity and even a healthy skepticism about how we humans govern ourselves locally, nationally, and internationally. Political science students gain essential analytic thinking skills as well as an understanding that many of the challenges we face today are ultimately political in nature. We hope that, through your studies, you have gained an in-depth knowledge of politics and the tools necessary for effective political analysis, participation and leadership. We are extremely proud of all you have done here at CU. It is now time for you to lead the way!

All the best,



Jennifer Fitzgerald

Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science

**Jenny Brown** | Magna Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Megan Shannon  
Across the Universe: Commercial Space Companies and International Cooperation

**Delaney Callahan** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Christopher Jorde  
Examining the Drivers of Far-Right Support in Western Europe: How Cultural Threats Shape Electoral Outcomes

**Alexandra Catlos** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Alexandra Siegel  
Incumbent Advantage and Social Media: An Analysis of the 2012, 2020, and 2024 US Presidential Election Tweets

**Brendan Church** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Andrew Philips  
East Asia's Innovation Frontier: The Interplay of Emerging Technology, Taxation, and Institutional Corruption

**Charlotte Cousins** | Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Michael Ferguson  
Sexual Assault Against Women on College Campuses: Why it Should be Classified as Gender-Based Discrimination

**Tia Devereux** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Regina Bateson  
Student Activism in Context: A Comparative Study of Student Movements in Higher Education

**Grace Knauer** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Nancy Billica  
Policies That Shape Participation: How Family-Focused Legislation Impacts Women's Political Engagement

**Poornima Kumar** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Joshua Strayhorn  
En Español, Por Favor: How Spanish Advertisements Shape House Campaigns and Candidate Success

**Joshua Miller** | Magna Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Christopher Jorde  
The Hate that Polarizes Us: How Regulation of Freedom of Speech Causes Political Polarization in Western Democracies

**Sam Nelson** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Michael Ferguson  
Lobbying and the Environment: Is Litigation the Unexpected Key to Environmental Policy

**Vara Reom** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Jennifer Fitzgerald  
A Receding Water's Edge: The Impact of Affective Polarization on International Issue Salience

**Nicholas Shires** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Joshua Strayhorn  
A Trojan Horse in Congress: Publicly Elected Officials Use the Stock Market for Personal Gain

**Ruby Sparks** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Marina Kassianidou  
A Study on the Relationship Between Art and Elections

**Neal Thompson** | Summa Cum Laude | Faculty Advisor - Dr. Vanessa Baird  
The Impact of Racism on Support For Cannabis Criminalization

Alise Mae Lindsey\*  
Siegmund Oliver Moe Lipansky\*  
George Donald Little  
Bruno A Lopez-Oviedo  
Nathan Rayburn Lujin  
Joshua Cody Lyman  
Katherine Leslie MacLean\*  
Giavanna Louise Madrill  
Abel Lee Maestas  
Paula Martinez  
Grey Edwin Mashrouteh  
Cassandra Jane Matchett  
Casey Matthews  
Lauren Leigh Mattson  
Ashley Michelle Mayer  
Marina Lee Mazuera\*  
Anne Michelle McClendon  
Luke Stanley McGarry  
Ian Ladd McGrath\*  
Nicole Murphy McKey  
Emori Madisen McQuigg\*  
Pilar Melendez Ruiz\*  
Joshua Benjamin Miller\*  
Burton Rutherford Miller  
Sebastian Myron Miller Paschen  
Jay Hamilton Misener\*  
Grace Elizabeth Moffitt\*  
Michael David Mondillo\*  
Zachary Thomas Moon  
Kate Marilyn Morton\*  
Nicholas Xavier Murphy  
Caesar Pierre Nafrada  
Emil Constantine Napier  
Stella Wilder Napior  
Delaine Sarah Nash  
Annalisa Neal  
Edward Jack Nelson  
Samantha De Jesus Neri Delgado  
Helena Ruth Neufeld\*  
Daniel Nickum  
Forrest James Norrod  
Fiona Marie Lanpher Nugent  
Mackenzie Obleski

Josef Charles Ochsenfeld  
Jackson Henry O'Connell  
Celia Love Oechsle  
Natalie Ortega  
Matthew Page  
Graham James Patterson\*  
Kate Elisabeth Pattison  
Maxwell Phillips Peery  
Grace Louise Perlman  
Natalie Peters\*  
Johnathan Jess Plautz  
Alexandra Elizabeth Pohl  
Antonio Carlos Posadas  
Max Poth  
Zachary Pruter  
Jordyn Raftery  
Travis M Rasmussen  
Robbie Reinhardt  
Vara Reom\*  
Landon James Rheuark  
Aidan Maria Rice  
Emma Claire Riley  
Nicole Marie Robert-Irizarry  
Amaya SarahRae Rockey  
Maxwell David Rose  
Gregory Thomas Salinas  
Max A Sarkissian  
Abigail Charlotte Schaller\*  
James Pearson Schlesinger  
Emily Grace Schoelzel  
Haylie Matthea Schramm\*  
Matthew Jerome Schultz  
Camila Alina Self Pina\*  
Austin Nicholas Setzer  
Liam Walter Sheridan  
Elijah Jacob Wolfe Shiffman  
Nicholas Shires\*  
Matthew Sigel  
Ruby M Sparks\*  
Faith Stanton\*  
Isabella Sundstrom  
Sophia Marie Sutherland  
Kaden James Scott Swanson

Christopher J Sweat  
John Quinn Szczerban  
Krystal Kalee Tanner  
Ethan John Taylor  
Emmanuel Kairos Theodoredis  
Katerina Sophia Xiang  
Thompson\*  
Neal Rogers Thompson\*  
William Threlkeld  
Kyle H. Ton  
Reylena Arion Tsosie  
Taylor Cohen Tullio\*  
Amy Catherine Updike\*  
Jack Dean Vanatta\*  
Preslie Vargas  
Garret Laurence Vliet\*  
Makayla Marie Walters  
John Frederick Waugh  
Sally Anna Webster  
Ryan Patrick Whalen  
Riley Sachio White  
Trevor White  
Zachary Scott Wiedeback  
Max Julius Wieder  
Jonathan Brandon Wies  
Kelsey Diane Lee Wiley  
Elena Cynthia Wilson  
Ian Jordan Wiltamuth  
Patrick Joseph Windels  
Declan Taylor Wittkamp\*  
John Crawford Wittmann  
Natalie Eng Yao  
John Alexander Zyskowski

**\*With Distinction**

# Graduation Recognition Ceremony

## Macky Auditorium

Friday, May 9th, 2025

Opening Remarks.....Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Chair, Department of Political Science

Commencement Address.....Johnny McInerney  
Political Science Alumnus

Presentation of Teacher of the Year Award ..Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Chair, Department of Political Science

Presentation of Faculty Mentor Award .....GIPS President  
Ph.D. Candidate

Presentation of Ph.D. Recipients ....Srinivas “Chinnu” Parinandi  
Director of Graduate Studies

Presentation of M.A. Recipients .....Srinivas “Chinnu” Parinandi  
Director of Graduate Studies

Presentation of Undergraduate Awards.....Janet Donavan  
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Presentation of Honors Graduates ..... Kenneth Bickers  
Honors Program Director

Presentation of B.A. Recipients .....Janet Donavan  
Director of Undergraduate Studies

Closing Remarks .....Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Chair, Department of Political Science

\* Reception at Sewall Field following the ceremony \*



## Doctor of Philosophy

**Sarah Elizabeth Brown** | Faculty Advisor – Dr. Michaele Ferguson  
Feminist Spatial Politics

**Alberto Miguel Burgos-Rivera** | Faculty Advisor – Dr. Adrian Shin  
Globalizing Communities: Immigration and Public Opinion in Stateless Nations

**Kathryn Rose Schauer** | Faculty Advisor – Dr. Jennifer Fitzgerald  
Economic Inequality and Its Discontents: The Negative Effects of Inequality on  
Democratic Values

**Hyodong Sohn** | Faculty Advisor – Dr. Srinivas Parinandi  
Trade-offs in Sustainable Energy Transition: Institutions and Interests in  
Shaping Energy and Electricity Mixes



## Master of Arts

- ◆ Kabin Jo ◆ Ansgarius Richard Manek ◆
- ◆ Tania Massicotte ◆ Poushali Mohanta ◆
- ◆ Grayson J. Moore ◆ Stone Patrick Neilon ◆
- ◆ Alex Bradley Newhouse ◆
- ◆ Zeynep Oguz ◆ Kyra Rossier ◆



## Bachelor of Arts

Simone Adhikari\*  
 Fayeze AlKinaey  
 Aidan Michael Allaway  
 Jacob Anson Aragon  
 Daniel De-Jesus Araujo-Ruiz  
 Nicole Armengol Oma  
 Chloe Madison Arroyo\*  
 James Henry Aschkenasy  
 Evan Ash  
 Jeanette Baker  
 Alexander Banks  
 Iris Barkett\*  
 Arly Benitez  
 Sandra Benothman  
 Taylor Aurelia Beuke  
 Dominic Alexander Biretto  
 Ayah Nour Bouayad  
 Jessica Nicole Bowman  
 Clayton Richard Boyle  
 Narayana Michaela Bretholtz  
 Shelby Brock  
 Bronwyn Delia Brody\*  
 Jennifer Xin Wan Brown  
 Frank Elijah Brown  
 Zoe Annabelle Bryant\*  
 Kellan Dee Bundgaard  
 Cal Cahill\*  
 Delaney Jane Callahan\*  
 William Stanley Callahan  
 Grace Julia Cambruzzi  
 Alexandra Catlos  
 Aidan Thomas Cauley  
 Julia Kaefer Cemin  
 Madeleine Chambers  
 Sameer Chaudry  
 Emery Cherok  
 Owen Colbert  
 Hannah Renae Coleman  
 Maximiliano Alexander Colgan  
 Christopher Treve Collins

James Michael Connolly\*  
 Ian James Connors  
 Maria Joan Cook\*  
 Charlotte Eleanor Cousins  
 Kaleigh Grace Cousins  
 Elizabeth Dorothy Craig\*  
 Riley Scott Crisler  
 Braxton Fisher Crowell  
 Breitin Rylae Curl\*  
 Suvan Aditya Das  
 Joshua F Davies  
 Ellis DeMars\*  
 Alec Douglas Demkiw  
 Tia Sacha Devereux  
 Reid Alexander Dewez  
 Catherine Price Dishner  
 Jack Donnelly  
 Thomas Charles Dreyer\*  
 John Martin Earley  
 Tanner Jackson Egloff  
 Katherine Ann Ehrlich  
 Griffin Andrew Eiss  
 Connor Dale Ernst\*  
 Francesca Sophia Evers  
 Regan Nicole Farnand  
 Anushay Farooqi\*  
 Ava Noelle Feliciano  
 Serene Ferjani  
 Piper Jane Fleming  
 Jackson H Foote  
 Rachel Helen Anne Gallant  
 Sarah McKenzie Galloway  
 Carter William Galyardt  
 Chloe Camille Garcia  
 Eos Gaspar  
 Elizabeth Gomez Solis  
 Alyssa Marie Goolsby  
 Stephen Shea Greco  
 Halle Sarah Greenbaum  
 Charles David Grow

Dylan Ryenne Gruszynski\*  
 Lindsey Guthrie  
 Michael Thomas Hallows  
 Skylar Galen Haroche  
 Sean Harsha\*  
 Kyra Nicole Hause  
 Graham Parker Haworth  
 Nolan Gray Helmstetter  
 Lily Hennessy  
 Kaitlin Shaye Hicks  
 Allison Taylor Hill  
 Casey Elizabeth Hood\*  
 Kye Ethan Hughes Conner  
 Jack Thomas Hynes  
 Samantha Ibarra Zavala  
 Marcus Dequint Jackson  
 John Jackson  
 Benjamin Alexander Jackson  
 Diana Michelle Jimenez  
 Simon Patrick Johnson\*  
 Parker Bryn Johnson  
 Hudson Wofford Jones  
 Alexandra Emily Jones  
 John William Kelleher  
 Cooper Samuel Kern  
 Ana Josephine Kizhnerman  
 Morgan Elizabeth Klein  
 Grace Miller Knauer\*  
 Joshua Alcus Koepfel  
 Rylee Elizabeth Kowalski\*  
 Victoria Rose Kubacki\*  
 Poornima Radha Kumar\*  
 Samuel Finn Lakey  
 Maxwell Christopher Lancaster  
 Emma Kathryn Lane  
 Azimat Oluwatoba Lawal  
 Ryan William Lehmann\*  
 Karla Citlali Lemus Gordillo  
 Christopher Jordan Leslie  
 Zubaida Salma Lien\*